Alabama Baptist Historical Society

MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SALEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION;

HELD WITH THE

BAPTIST CHURCH AT ORION,

PIKE COUNTY, ALABAMA,

October 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th, 1855.

TUSKEGEE, ALA.,
PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE "SOUTH WESTERN BAPTIST."
1855

With kind regards of the
Clerk

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MINUTES.

The SALEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION convened according to adjournment, with the Baptist Church in Orion, Pike co., Ala., on Saturday, the 6th of October, 1855, this being the *Seventeenth Annual Session* of the body. The INTRODUCTORY SERMON was delivered agreeably to previous appointment by J. T. S. Park. Theme—*Dignity of Christianity.* Text—"*Now are we the sons of God*;" 1st John, 3d ch. and 2d verse.

After an intermission, the delegates assembled in the Presbyterian meeting house at 2 o'clock to organize the body; Bro. J. Mercer preached at the same time in the Baptist Church.

Prayer was offered by bro. W. B. Jones, and the letters from the churches were read by brethren Worthy and Moss. By ballot the delegates elected brother A. N. Worthy, *Moderator*, and re-elected J. T. S. Park Clerk.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

The Moderator, after a few remarks, announced the body ready for business, whereupon the following *Committee on Religious Services* during the meeting, was appointed, viz:—Eli Parks, J. H. Smith and Henry Pennington, together with the delegates from Orion Church.

The following committees were also announced by the Moderator:

On Business—Bros. J. H. Moss, J. R. Siler and John Bean.

On Documents—Bros W. T. Shanks, Eli Parks and John J. Long.

On Nominations—Bros. T. S. Youngblood, J. Carlisle and H. S. Urquhart.

On Publications—Bros. Jno. J. Cumbie, A. A. DeWitt and Isaac Kirksey.

On Finance—Bros. W. G. Williams, J. J. Long and J. L. Simpson.

On Missions—Bros. J. J. Cumbie, W. T. Shanks and (by request.) the Moderator.

On the History of the Churches—Bros. J. T. S. Park, F. H. Moss and J. Kirksey.

On the Bible Cause—Bros. F. H. Moss, J. W. Battle and G. G. McLendon.

A letter from brother A. C. Dayton of Nashville was read before the body, and referred to the committee last named.

Correspondents Received.

Received as correspondents from sister Associations the following :

From *West Florida Association*—Bros. Joshua Mercer and W. M. Davis.

From *Alabama Association*—Bros. J. A. Fonville, W. E. Wiett and M. Bishop.

From *Tuskegee Association*—Bros. W. B. Jones and Joseph Wood.

From *Judson Association*—Bro. Alfred McGee.

After prayer by brother J. Mercer. the body adjourned until Monday morning 9 o'clock.

Exercises on the Sabbath.

In the A. M., Bro. W. B. Jones occupied the Presbyterian pulpit, and Bro. F. H. Moss preached in the Baptist Church. In the P. M., Bro. F. Calloway preached in the former place ; whilst Bro. J. J. Cumbie, by request of the family. delivered at the latter place a funeral discourse, in memory of brother Robert Simpson, whose "mortal remains" were interred in the Baptist cemetery at the conclusion of the services.

At night. bro. Washington Wilkes filled the pulpit in the Presbyterian building, and Bro. W. T. Shanks that in the Baptist meeting house.

The congregations were very large during both night and day services ; and a deeply interesting state of feeling prevailed. The ordinance of baptism was administered in the forenoon by the pastor of the church, bro. J. A. Fonville, six willing subjects being "burried with Christ by baptism."

MONDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock.

Association met. Prayer by bro. W. G. Williams. Called the roll, and read the decorum.

Received and adopted the report of the Committee on Business.

Appointed Correspondents.

Appointed correspondents as follows :

To the West Florida Association at Orange Hill, embracing the fourth Sabbath in this month, brethren J. T. S. Park, W. T Shanks, J. M. Wood and F. H. Moss.

To the Alabama, at Carlowville, embracing the second Sabbath in this month, brethren J. Carlisle and J. T. S. Park.

To the Tuskegee, at Loachapoka, on Friday before the third Sabbath in September next, brethren F. H. Moss, J. M. Wood, J. H. Smith, E. Parks, J. W. Battle and J. T. S. Park.

To the Judson, near Skipperville, commencing on Saturday before the 3d Sabbath in this month, brethren F. H. Moss, W. T. Shanks, W. G. Williams, J. J. Cumbie, Eli Parks and A. N. Worthy.

Adjourned till 2 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Convened at 2 o'clock, brother Moss led in prayer.

Reports Received.

The Committee on Publications made their report, which was adopted. [See Appendix *A.*]

Whilst this subject was before the body, brother W. B. Jones made some spirited remarks, respecting the present condition and future prospects of the South Western Baptist, after which business was suspended in order to give persons present an opportunity to subscribe for that paper, and it is believed that *every member present who was not a subscriber, became one forthwith.*

In pursuance with the third resolution in the above report the following committee was appointed: A. N. Worthy, (by request) Eli Parks and J. H Smith.

[Suspended business, and repaired to the water and witnessed an interesting administration of the ordinance of baptism.]

The Committee on Documents made their report on the adoption of which the body voted to hold the next session thereof with the Baptist Church at Helicon, Lowndes county, beginning on Saturday before the first Sabbath in October next. [See Appendix *B.*]

Received and adopted the report of the Committee on the Bible Cause. [See Appendix *C.*, also, minutes of the Bible Society, appended to these minutes.]

Adopted the report of the Committee on Finance. [See Appendix *D.*]

After singing and prayer by brother Jas. Cumbie, the body adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

TUESDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock.

The business was opened with prayer, bro. W. B. Jones leading.

Received the following report from the Committee on Nominations:

Your Committee submit the following report:

As *Delegates to the Alabama Baptist State Convention:* Bros. J. T. S. Park, G. G. McLendon, A. N. Worthy, F. H. Moss, W. T. Shanks, J. J. Cumbie, Eli Parks, J. R. Siler, Henry Pennington and Robert Jordan.

As *Executive Committee*, the ensuing year: Brothers Eli Parks, J. T. S. Park, Jason Carlisle, J. R. Siler, A. N. Worthy, W. T. Shanks and M. Bishop.

To preach the next *Introductory Sermon*, G. G. McLendon; W. T. Shanks as alternate.

T. S. YOUNGBLOOD, *Ch'm.*

From the *Committee on Missions* a Report was received and adopted.—[*See Appendix* E.] After adopting the above-named Report, the body *Voted unanimously* that the Executive Committee be authorized to employ a Missionary to travel, preach and distribute books, Bibles, &c., in the destitute portions of our Associational territory, the ensuing year, and to defray the expenses, incident thereto. Business being suspended for a few minutes, the brethren present pledged "freely" and with genuine Missionary fervor, about three hundred ($300) dollars; it being understood that those small churches without pastors, adjacent to the destitute regions, would pay each one hundred ($100) dollars to the project. The following resolution, presented by Bro. Moss, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we recommend the churches to send up to the next session of this body, such sums as they may be willing to contribute for the support of a Missionary in our bounds, and that the pastors and deacons be requested to *urge* this subject on the consideration of the members generally.

The Secretary and Treasurer of the Executive Committee submitted his report, which see (*Appendix* F.)

Several of the Churches having failed to send up in their letters the necessary statistical data from which to make out a report on their history, the Committee on that subject were unable to report. The Clerk expects, however, to prepare an article on that subject for publication in the "South Western Baptist" at an early day.

The following resolutions were adopted with unanimity:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be tendered to the citizens of Orion and vicinity for their generous hospitality to the delegates and visitors of this Association, during this session.

Resolved, That our Presbyterian brethren are entitled to our most grateful thanks for their courtesy in tendering to us the use of their building during this meeting.

Voted, that the Clerk have 500 copies of these Minutes printed and distributed among the Churches; and that he receive for his services the overplus of the *Minute fund* which may remain, after paying the expenses incident to the printing and distribution.

The Moderator made a few appropriate remarks, which were followed by an impressive prayer by Bro. J. Mercer.

While taking "the parting hand," the brethren attempted to sing those touching lines,

"Blest be the tie that binds," &c.,

but the "flow of soul" and suffusion of tears which prevailed drowned the melody.

After this season of "pleasantness," the Association adjourned to meet at the time and place before named.

A. N. WORTHY, *Moderator*.

J. T. S. PARK, *Clerk*.

APPENDIX.

REPORT A.

On Publications.

The Committee on Publications beg leave to report.

That whilst we regret that our only Denominational Organ in the State —the "South Western Baptist"—has hitherto met with a support so meagre, we rejoice in the intelligence that its prospects are brightening by constant accessions to its subscription list.

We recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1st. *Resolved*, That the Association recommend the individual members of our denomination to subscribe *immediately* for the South Western Baptist, which is a reliable and faithful exponent of sound gospel doctrines.

2nd. That we are delighted with the masterly ability and christian spirit exhibited by the editor, Elder Samuel Henderson, in the discussion recently held in the columns of said paper with Rev. E. J. Hamill on the subject of "Methodist Episcopacy;" and recommend that the entire discussion be speedily published in a more durable form, and circulated *broad cast* through the land.

3d. That a Committee be appointed to correspond with Bro. Henderson on the subject of its publication; and to solicit subscriptions for the work as soon as it may be ready for distribution.

4th. That we regard the labors of the "Southern Baptist Publication Society" as second only to the preaching of the Gospel; and therefore strongly urge the Churches to foster and support thisproject, as one every way calculated to advance, not only our denominational interests, but the Redeemer's cause on the earth We rejoice to learn that the efficient services of our beloved brother, Elder Platt Stout, have been engaged as Agent for said Society in Alabama.

Respectfully submitted. J. J. CUMBIE,
Chairman.

REPORT B.

On Documents.

The Committee on Documents submit the following report:

We find that Mt. Pleasant Church and the Church at Helicon, each petition for the privilege of entertaining this body at her next session. We recommend that the body decide this matter.

In the Corresponding Letter from Florida, we find an invitation to Salem Association to obtain a letter of dismission from the Alabama Baptist State Convention, in order to join the Baptist Convention of Florida. Your committee respectfully suggest the impropriety of so doing.

Respectfully submitted. W. T. SHANKS,
Chairman.

REPORT C.

On the Bible Cause.

Your Committee on the Bible Cause make the following report:

The necessity of a general distribution of the Bible amongst all classes, need not be urged upon this body; for we take it for granted that all who have been brought to the knowledge of salvation, as revealed therein, have

been divinely impressed by its gracious teachings with the desire to give "the bread of life" to others. The object of this report is therefore only to suggest a plan by which this body may successfully co-operate with the Alabama Baptist Bible Society in circulating the Bible and other religious books, so that every family may have them and read them. We regard this as one of the most important objects claiming the attention and earnest support of this body. We recommend, therefore,

1st, That a meeting be held to-night in order to form a Bible Society.

2d, That the *Churches* of this Association each form a Society auxiliary to the Associational Society.

F. H. MOSS,
Chairman.

REPORT D.

Of the Committee on Finance.

We. the Committee on Finance, respectfully submit the following report:

Amount sent up for Domestic Missions,	$ 113 25
" " " " Minutes,	32 00
	$ 145 25

W. G. WILLIAMS,
Chairman.

REPORT E.

On Missions.

The Committee on Missions beg leave to report as follows:

There has never been a period when the labor of an efficient missionary was more needed in the bounds of our Asosciation, than at the present time.

The Salem Association has great reason to thank God for the unparalleled success hitherto attendant on her efforts to advance the cause of Christ in her midst; and we feel assured that God's "ear is not heavy that he cannot hear; nor is his arm shortened that he cannot save" sinners who are "ready to perish," now as in former times, through the instrumentality of our *itineracy*. We feel therefore that the body would be greatly remiss in duty did she not at once renew her efforts which have been hitherto so signally blessed; and without suggesting any particular plan of operation, your committee hereby *recommend* that the body devise and put into immediate practice *some* means to supply the destitution in our midst.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. J. CUMBIE,
Chairman.

REPORT F.

Of the Secretary and Treasurer.

The Secretary and Treasurer of the Executive Committee submit the following report:

For the want of a suitable man, and of sufficient means, there was no itinerant Missionary employed to labor in our Association the past year.

The liabilities of the Executive Committee at our last session were as follows:

Balance due Bro. McLendon for itinerant labor,	$ 124 86
" " " Homes for serving a destitute Church,	25 00
" " on Educational expenses of Bro. W. M. Davis,	56 87
	$ 206 73

To meet the above, the Treasurer has received the following sums:

Cash on old subscriptions, pledges, &c.,	$ 36 61
" from Bro. McKenzie of Eufaula Association, for balance on W. M. Davis' educational expenses,	56 87
Cash from Committee on Finance for Missions,	113 25
	$ 206 73

The sum of $32 dollars was received from the Committee on Finance for the printing and distribution of minutes, and handed over to the Clerk, agreeably to the vote of the body.

J. T. S. PARK,
Sec'y and Treas'r.

MINUTES

OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF SALEM ASSOCIATION.

A number of the delegates to Salem Association, visitors, and citizens of Orion assembled in the Presbyterian Church on Monday night for the purpose of organizing a Bible Society.

Rev. A. N. Worthy was called to the Chair, and J. T. S. Park requested to act as Secretary.

The objects of the meeting have been briefly stated by the President, by request, addresses were delivered by Eld. W. B. Jones, M. M. Gillis, Elders F. H. Moss and W. E. Wiett.

A number of persons (about forty,) came forward and enrolled their names as annual members by paying into the treasury One ($1) Dollar each.

A committee of three was appointed by the Chair to nominate officers; which after a few minutes made the following

REPORT.

Eld. G. G. McLendon,	of Orion,		*President.*
" A. N. Worthy,	of Troy,	1 *Vice*	"
" F. H. Moss,	of Greenwood,	2 "	"
Eli Parks, Esq.	of Monticello,	3 "	"
J. T. S. Park,	of Helicon,	*Sec'y and Treas'r.*	

The Secretary was requested to prepare by to-morrow a Constitution for the Society; in pursuance with which instruction the following found below was presented on Tuesday morning: the Society having been called to order by the President,

The Secretary was ordered to have the Minutes of this meeting, together with the Constitution of the Society printed in the same cover with the Minutes of the Salem Association; to pay for which, funds were contributed *instanter*.

After adopting the Constitution, the Society adjourned, to meet at the call of the President.

G. G. McLENDON,
President.

J. T. S. Park, Secretary.

PREAMBLE.

In order that we may more systemmatically and effectually co-operate with the Baptist Bible Society of the State, and the Bible Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, in the great work of circulating the Scriptures in our own and other lands, we hereby form ourselves into a Bible Society to act in connection with this Association, and adopt the following

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. This Society shall be called the BIBLE SOCIETY OF THE SALEM ASSOCIATION.

ART. II. This Society shall be composed of the following classes of persons:

1st. Of all the messengers sent up with funds from congregational or other local Bible Societies, which shall be entitled to one delegate for every Five Dollars sent up.

2d. Of representatives of Churches, Missionary Societies, Sunday Schools, or any other bodies, which shall send up funds, one delegate for every five dollars sent up.

3d. Of all persons who shall have paid ten dollars or more at one time to this Society, or to any one of its auxiliaries. Such persons shall be counted members *for life*.

4th. Of all persons who are present at any meeting of the Society, and contribute the sum of *one dollar*, more or less, who shall be considered members for the year.

ART. III The object of this Society shall be to aid in the circulation of the Holy Scriptures in our own and other lands; and the funds collected by us shall be sent up to the State Baptist Bible Society of our own State, or to the Bible Board of the Southern Baptist Convention at Nashville.

OF OFFICERS.

ART. IV. The officers of this Society shall be, a President, three Vice Presidents, a Secretary and Treasurer, who shall perform the duties common to such offices in similar organizations and shall be elected by a plurality of votes at each annual meeting; and in case of failure to elect, shall hold their places until another meeting.

OF MEETINGS.

ART V. The regular annual meetings of this Society shall be held at the time and place with the meetings of our Association, at which the following order of business shall be observed:

1st. The Reports of the Treasurer and of the Board of Directors shall be read.

2d. A sermon, or other address, or addresses, suitable to the occasion, shall be delivered.

3d. An opportunity given to those present to become members, by subscribing or contributing to our funds, and a general collection taken up.

4th. Officers elected and speakers appointed for the next meeting. An adjourned meeting may be held at any time, at the discretion of the President, or either of the Vice Presidents.

OF LIFE DIRECTORS.

ART. VI. Any person who shall contribute to our funds at any one time, twenty dollars, or in two annual instalments, shall be considered a life director, and with the officers of the Society, shall constitute a Board to attend to any business in the interim of the regular meetings.

ART. VII. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular meeting.

STATISTICAL TABLE FOR 1855.

Ordained Ministers in SMALL CAPITALS ; Licentiates in *italics*.

Names of the Churches.	Counties.	Post Offices.	Pastor.	Names of Delegates.	Contributions. Bapt'd	By L'r	Dism'd	Ex'md	Rest'd	Dead.	Wh.No	Ord'd Minis.	Lic'ns.	Minute	Miss'y Purp's	Total.
Salem	Pike	Pea River	No Pastor	John Johns, *J. H. Smith*	1	5	5	0	0	0	32	1	1	1.55		1.55
Bethel	do.	Monticello	No Pastor	W. T. SHANKS, J. J. Long	0	2	2	0	0	0	83	1	0	1.00		1.00
Troy	do.	Troy	M. Bishop	A. N. WORTHY, S. Barrow, H. S. Urquhart	15	4	3	2	0	0	69	1	0	1.75		1.75
Orion	do.	Orion	J. A. Fonville	*J. Chandler*, J. W. Battle, J. R. Siler	4	0	9	3	1	0	74	1	1	4.00	22.00	26.00
Mt. Pleasant	do.	Fryer's Bridge	W. T. Shanks.	J. A. DeWitt, John T. Jackson	0	2	5	3	0	3	63	0	1	1.50	10.00	11.50
Macedonia	do.	Mt. Hilliard	J. J. Cumbie	JAMES CUMBIE	0	0	13	1	0	2	48	1	0	3.00	5.00	8.00
Mt. Carmel.	do.	Bruceville	F. H. Moss	F. H. Moss	0	5	2	2	0	1	76	0	0	2.50	22.50	25.00
Liberty	do.	Farriorville	M. Bishop	J. J. CUMBIE, J. Bean, T. S. Youngblood, H. Pennington	0	6	6	3	0	0	152	1	0	4.15	20.00	24.15
Siloam	do.	China Grove	J. J. Cumbie	J. Carlisle, J. L. Simpsom	1	2	16	3	0	0	55	0	0	1.50	5.00	6.50
Fairview	do.	Indian Creek.	No pastor	Not represented												
Lebanon	do.	Troy	W. G. Williams	M. J. Barnett, Isaac Kirksey	1	5	2	3	0	0	43	0	0	1.00	5.00	6.00
Mt. Zion	do.	N. Providence.	J. S. Homes	W. H. Rouse, F. B. Tanner	9	6	0	2	0	0	50	0	0	2.00		2.00
Pea River	do.	Pea River	No pastor	Not represented												
Spring Hill	do.	Troy	do.	*J. M. Wood*	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	1	0.75		75
New Hope	do.	Monticello,	do.	*S. T. Sharpe*	0	5	1	2	0	0	28	0	1	1.30		1.30
Benevolence	do.	Troy	W. G. Williams	W. G. WILLIAMS, Wm. Mills	1	2	0	2	0	0	12	1	0	1 00	3.75	4.75
Shiloh	do.	Monticello	Joel Sims	Eli Parks, Wm. J. Smith	5	9	2	0	2	0	39	0	0	2.00		2.00
Helicon	Lowndes.	Helicon	J. T. S. Park	J. T. S. PARK, Robert Jordan	0	2	7	2	0	0	63	1	0	3.00	20.00	23.00
TOTAL					37	55	73	28	3	6	900	8	5	32.00	113.25	145.25

LIST OF MINISTERS,
WITH THEIR POST OFFICES.

ORDAINED	POST OFFICES.	COUNTIES.
James Cumbie	Farriorville	Pike
John J. Cumbie	do	do
G. G. McLendon	Orion	do
J. T. S. Park	Helicon	Lowndes
W. T. Shanks	Troy	Pike
W. G. Williams	do	do
A. N. Worthy	do	do
B. H. Banks	Pea River	do
LICENTIATES.		
James Chandler	Pine Level	Montgomery
John A. Marratt	Frier's Bridge	Pike
John H. Smith	Pea River	do
S. T. Sharpe	Monticello	do
J. M. Wood	Troy	do

OFFICERS OF THE BODY.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Eli Parks ..... Jason Carlisle
J. R. Siler ..... A. N. Worthy
W. T. Shanks ..... M. Bishop
..... J. T. S. Park

A. N. WORTHY, *Moderator.*

J. T. S. PARK, *Clerk.*